

TIGER Grants Awarded to 52 Transportation Projects
JOC Staff | Sep 05, 2013 3:30PM EDT

About \$474 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery 2013 discretionary grant program has been awarded to 52 transportation projects in 37 states, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced.

Among these grants, 25 projects funded at \$123.4 million will be designated for projects in rural areas of the country. In this fifth round of grants, the DOT received 585 applications from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam, totaling more than more than \$9 billion.

Among the projects awarded funding is \$10 million for the Port of Baltimore to increase its cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at its Fairfield Marine Terminal. The project will use dredged material from the Maryland port's 50-foot deep main access channel to fill Fairfield Marine Terminal's antiquated basin, resulting in a 7.6-acre cargo staging area that will enable rail access, enhancing the port's handling of roll-on, roll-off equipment. The total estimate for the project is \$29 million, and the Maryland DOT has agreed to fund the other \$19 million.

Other ports also received awards, including:

- Jackson County Port Authority — \$14.0 million for the Port of Pascagoula's Bayou Harbor in Mississippi to upgrade its rail connection.
- Port of Houston Authority — \$10.0 million to extend the Bayport Terminal's wharf to 4,000 feet.
- Duluth Seaway Port Authority — \$10.0 million to rebuild a general cargo dock at the Port of Duluth-Superior in Wisconsin.
- Diamond State Port Corp. — \$10.0 million to rehabilitate a wharf at the Port of Wilmington, Del.
- Sound Transit — \$10.0 million in Washington to replace a trestle and bridge with a double-track structure.
- Eastport Port Authority — \$6.0 million in Maine to replace the Port of Eastport's breakwater and two of its pier sections, as well as increase berthing space.
- Port of Oswego Authority — \$1.5 million in New York to construct a roadway with rail tracks between its main East Terminal and storage area.
- Port of Garibaldi — \$1.5 million in Oregon to rebuild a wharf and enhance marine and highway intermodal access.

Other transportation projects that received TIGER funding include:

- City of Boston — \$15.5 million to improve roadways and the transit system.
- Illinois' City of Springfield — \$14.4 million for the first stage of its Springfield Rail Improvements Project.

- San Diego Association of Governments — \$14.0 million to replace trestle railway bridges.
- Florida DOT — \$13.8 million to better link two freight rail corridors.
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority — \$10 million to separate passenger and freight trains on its West Trenton Regional Rail Line.
- Michigan DOT — \$9.4 million to complete improvements in the Dearborn-Kalamazoo section of the high-speed rail corridor.
- Vermont Agency of Transportation — \$9.0 million to replace old jointed rail with continuously welded rail, as well as new surfacing, ballast and ties.
- Indiana DOT — \$8.2 million to replace a bridge in Greene County that connects regional freight corridors.
- Arkansas DOT — \$5.0 million to resurface a section of Highway 92.
- Pima County — \$5.0 million in Arizona to extend the Wilmot siding and install switches for trains at the inland Port of Tucson Container Export Rail Facility.
- Mississippi DOT — \$4.3 million to rehabilitate the Interstate 20/Vicksburg Mississippi River Bridge.
- Oklahoma DOT — \$1.8 million to repair 15 miles of state-owned railroad track.
- Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority — \$11.3 million to support freight and passenger rail enhancements in central Texas.
- New Hampshire DOT — \$1.4 million to upgrade and repair a mainline rail line.

TIGER Funding for Ports, Rail Increases, But Future Grants Uncertain
Mark Szakonyi, Associate Editor | Sep 05, 2013 4:44PM EDT

WASHINGTON — Port and freight rail projects got a larger share of the Department of Transportation's TIGER grants this time around, but the future of the politically contentious program is uncertain.

About \$148 million, or 31 percent, of the \$474 million in grants through Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program will go toward 18 ports and freight rail projects this year. A fifth, or about \$104 million, of the \$511 million awarded last year went toward ports and freight rail projects.

The latest round of grants, the fifth, will support more than \$410 million in freight project investment. The remaining \$326 million in TIGER funding this year goes toward roads, highways, non-rail bridges, public transit, passenger rail, bicycle lanes and walking trails projects.

"TIGER has helped large multimodal projects get off the ground that would otherwise struggle to find funding," DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx said during a Thursday media conference call. "TIGER has made

significant noise across America in a good way improving and repairing critical roads and bridges and relieving freight chokepoints.”

Foxx didn’t say much about the future of TIGER grant funding, except that the grants were critical to making the nation globally competitive in freight movement. By stressing the importance of the funding to states and communities, he appeared to put the onus on mayors and governors to lobby for the continuation of the program.

The Senate wants to increase TIGER funding by \$51 million in fiscal 2014 to \$550 million, but the House has scrapped funding for the program in their budget proposal. Some Republicans, including Sen. David Vitter, of Louisiana, accuse the Obama administration of using the program to reward Democratic lawmakers. The Senate has historically gotten its way when the two chambers conference, but the next wave of sequestration could tip the balance.

“There are no Democratic roads and Republican bridges. We can put politics aside and deliver what Americans are demanding, a transportation system that is the envy of the world,” Foxx said.

The major freight project awards include grants to the Port of Baltimore, the Port of Wilmington, and the Port of Tucson, among others.

Railway Track and Structures

TIGER V: Three ports receive funds

The Port of Baltimore, Port of Tucson and Port of Oswego have received \$16.5 million in U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants.

The Maryland Port Administration has been awarded \$10,000,000 to expand the handling capacity at the Fairfield Marine Terminal at the Port of Baltimore.

"This public investment in the Port of Baltimore is about jobs, jobs, jobs," Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) said. "From the dock workers who unload the ships to the manufacturers who rely on cargo transported by the ships, the port means jobs. Through construction jobs today, preparing the port for the bigger ships that will soon be sailing through the widened Panama Canal, we are supporting jobs tomorrow that will keep Maryland's economy rolling."

According to the Maryland Port Administration, the project will expand the handling capacity at the Fairfield Marine Terminal at the Port of Baltimore. This project replaces an obsolete and dilapidated wet basin in the Port of Baltimore with a new 7.6-acre, rail-served cargo lay-down area within a strong export/import auto and roll-on/roll-off cargo terminal.

The project completes a long-planned redevelopment of the Fairfield Terminal wet basin beneficially using dredged material from the Seagirt container terminal access channel as fill material, resolving navigation safety concerns for larger vessels and providing multiple regional and national benefits. Rail access in the project will increase intermodal flexibility for the export of U.S. manufactured cargo and will return the area to a state of good repair for the benefit of the overall transportation system.

In Arizona, Pima County received \$5 million to build an intermodal ramp at the Port of Tucson that will allow the facility to handle increased international cargo.

"The Port of Tucson is an outstanding facility that will play a major role in the economic growth of Tucson and Southern Arizona," Rep. Ron Barber (D-AZ) said. "This grant will increase Arizona's competitiveness in overseas markets and is significant to the entire region."

Funding will allow the port to build a ramp off Union Pacific's mainline that runs through Tucson from coast to coast, allowing cargo containers to be unloaded there or transferred to trucks or other trains.

That makes it possible for U.S. exporters to access Asian markets by filling westbound containers that would otherwise return to Asia empty. Using rail for more consumer goods reduces the use of trucks, cutting diesel consumption, air pollution, highway congestion and shipping costs for consumers.

In New York, the Port of Oswego received \$1.5 million, for upgrades to infrastructure and equipment so that it can meet future shipping demands, increase productivity and preserve its role as a critical resource for businesses throughout Central New York and across the globe.

"This is an incredibly smart investment for the Port of Oswego," Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) said. "When we invest in our transportation infrastructure, we set the foundation for economic growth, attract new businesses and new jobs for middle class families right here where we need it most."

The Port of Oswego will use the funds to construct a roadway, embedded with heavy rail track, connecting the port's main East Terminal to a six-acre secure, open-storage area to accommodate increased traffic and new commodities. The roadway connector will utilize the existing right-of-way to accommodate both truck and rail traffic. The development will nearly double the present storage and operation area for the port and relieve the current yard congestion and lack of space. Construction of the new access corridor road will improve truck movement within the port, and the rehabilitated rail/road network will connect the port's main deep-water dock to this new almost six-acre expansion site. The additional two sidetracks will allow the port to increase its storage of railcars on site from 16 to 48, a 67 percent increase, and provide a more efficient and safer traffic flow for railcars.